What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. View this email in your browser

Newsletter #166:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello everyone! I hope wherever you are in the world you are doing okay. In Oak Park, right outside of Chicago, we are buried in snow. I remember as a little girl having huge snow storms and I know that we have had many of them since I was an adult but somehow this one seems worse. It is beautiful but if you have to travel outside then it is far from pleasant. In Texas they have no electricity in some parts. For the first time, the presidential election and Covid haven't been making the headlines! Well, you aren't here to talk about the weather so let's get down to it.

ANA Board of Governors Election (March 2021)

Thank you to all that sent me a note of support or nomination form for my re-election. I truly appreciate it. Official ballots will be sent out by June 1 and completed ballots must be in by July 1. On July 15 the newly nominated board members will be informed of results. The last election about 4,000 or so people voted in the election which is just a fraction of the total membership. That said, it was the highest number of people voting ever for an ANA board election. If you haven't voted in the past you really should and here is why.

The ANA Board President and Governors are responsible for the overall direction and planning of the ANA. This means which programs are supported or pulled and probably more important to many, all details of the ANA World's Fair of Money or National Money Show. If you want to help determine plans for the ANA then you must voice your opinion on who is on your board. Just like with our own political process in the U.S. there are wide ranging viewpoints on how the organization should be run. Issues like educational programs or where and when the conventions take place are decided. The ANA also has an amazing collection of coins and numismatic items that is open to the public. What about having those items be displayed in virtual museums for all to see. My point is that learning who the candidates are and voicing your opinion is extremely important for the future of the ANA. I hope you will vote if you are a member. For those that haven't joined yet, please do, but know that you won't be able to vote in this

election since you have to be an established member before you are allowed to vote in the elections.

More about the ANA Elections is here: https://www.money.org/election

What's New at the American Numismatic Society

The ANS is introducing a very exciting new program called Lyceum. These will be online classes over a range of topics and with ANS principals. The first set of lectures cover ancient minting practices and different Greek kingdoms ranging from the Lydians and the beginning of coinage to the Hellenistic period. Members pay $100 for the 6 lectures and non members $250. If this isn't a reason to join I'm not sure what is. Most of this is known to me but I'm even interested in participating. It will be a great way to support the ANS and of course learn something new. In the days of the pandemic many of us are trying to find ways to enrich our lives. One of those ways is through collecting. Programs like this help to further nurture our hobby.

If you want to learn more about the ANS Lyceum program go here: http://numismatics.org/lyceum/

What's New at the American Numismatic Association

The ANA has a range of free courses for those interested. The course topics cover all areas of numismatics. While the ANS definitely focuses on the more academic side of numismatics, the ANA is largely a collector organization and caters to a much wider audience. For this reason the topics are broader and a great introduction into areas that you might be interested in but don't want to bite off more than you can chew. Here is a link to the courses available in the coming months: https://info.money.org/elearning

There is also a new podcast available from the duo of ANA curator Doug Mudd and columnist for *The Numismatist*, Mitch Sanders. Episode 7 is near and dear to my heart as it focuses on Greek coinage. Doug does an amazing job of explaining the primary coinage of that time. Here is a link: https://www.money.org/podcast

New Exciting Changes to Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Even I have something new to report! Just recently I have added a new section to my website. It is a highlights section and it provides customers with a closer view of particular coins in a video format. While nothing is perfect it is wonderful to be able to show everyone pretty toning or even if a coin has a flaw that might need a little more of a visual explanation. Please check out my website for this new feature and if you would like to see a coin added then just send me a note! The featured section has a pull down and you can view Greek, Roman, etc.

https://www.shannaschmidt.com/featured-greek-coins

Now finally to the upcoming auctions:

Obolos 18 (February 21)

Nomos is conducting their 18th web sale on February 21. This sale is the third installment of the Trausnitz Collection. There are 1,016 lots in this sale with Greek, Roman, Byzantine and world coinage. While the first two installments of the Trausnitz

sale were slightly more exciting in terms of quality, there are still some nice pedigrees and types in the auction to be had. As an aside, Dr. Alan Walker does a wonderful newsletter for Nomos. If you ever want to learn more about the coins in their sales then you should go to their site to sign up. I will be participating in this auction so please get in touch if you need my help.

Roma ESale 81 (February 25)

Roma has yet another massive sale of 2,123 coins on February 25. These are day long affairs that start early in the morning (for me at least) and end very late in the afternoon. This particular auction has a substantial amount of Greek (779) and Roman Imperial (597) coins. What I particularly like about the Roma electronic auctions is that while there are many coins of lower quality, you can always find an absolute diamond in the rough. I've bought coins in a Roma E-Sales that were more than worthy of placement in one of their live catalogued sales. If you want nice Athens or Alexander the Great coin then there are always several in high grade to choose from. For Americans the strength of the GBP is a bit of a negative at the moment. Compound that with the buyer's premium and you have a very expensive sale. That said, the Roma sale is worth checking out. I will be participating as always so get in touch if you need my help.

Davissons Auction 40 (March 3)

The lovely outfit out of Minnesota, Davissons, is conducting their 40th sale. I really like working with this family business because first of all they don't charge a buyer's premium. That's right, no buyer's premium which is almost unheard of nowadays. Plus, they are just delightful folks and they have great coins. Marnie wrote me a little about their upcoming sale and instead of rehashing what she wrote I'll just list it below. Check out their catalog....it is worth your time.

From Marnie Davisson:

We had five old collections, mostly from the early to mid-twentieth century, to select coins from, and we selected carefully. There are some good provenances scattered throughout. The sale opens with some nice early electrum and medieval hammered and US gold, including an Angel-Gallic leopard d'or, ex Strauss. The Greek section offers many spectacular coins, most notably the Alexander III Memphis Mint tetradrachms that one of our current clients told us are likely not even available on the market these days, except possibly by private treaty (though I did find an example on Coin Archives comparable to our lot 33 sold recently by Nomos for around $10,000; see our writeup here: https://mailchi.mp/davcoin/alexander-tetradrachms-a40). Many other unusually fine examples of Greek silver are included, and at estimates that are markedly conservative in this current period showing rapid growth in the ancient Greek silver market. Plus, other more minor pieces were carefully selected for particular interest, including a select group of British Museum electrotypes.

The Roman section includes Republican silver and a nice offering of quality coins of Roman Britain.

The British section likewise offers many spectacular hammered pieces, and an extremely rare Henry-the-Pretender ryal of the tragic Mary Queen of Scots (read the fascinating story here: https://mailchi.mp/davcoin/an-ill-advised-marriage-a40), more Scottish, some Irish gun money, and a nice English milled offering. The British token section is likewise especially nice, including the politically explosive Spence series, "a fascinating group with intriguing designs from a colorful character trying to

make a living with coins and tokens while fighting for free speech in Georgian London" around the time of the American Revolution.

The World section is from one collection formed around "The Cabinet Collection at the Mint of the United States," published by James Snowden in 1860.

Then U.S., Americanna, and on the back page, fascinating medals, "interesting and unusual."

Kolbe & Fanning 159 (The Richard Margolis International Numismatic Library) (March 6)

While most of the books in this sale fall a bit out of my area I am happy to tell you all about this incredible auction of 539 lots. Richard Margolis, a notable numismatist died in 2018. Mr. Margolis was a dealer in world coinage and had an impressive library to match. He and his wife also were early organizers for the New York International Coin Show, which is the premier show for ancient and world coins. There are several notable books in this sale and I urge everyone to take some time to check it out. K&F also do an incredible job of cataloguing their sales and their auction platform is easy to use.

Künker 347 (March 22)

Künker has their Spring sale over the entire week but I will just discuss auction 347 since it is ancient coins. The catalog contains a few collections. The first are coins from "Die Sammlung eines Altertumswissenschaftlers" (An Ancient Scholars Collection). This collection is composed of coins from Egypt and Rome. Especially exciting are the remarkable Zodiac coins found within the pages. Zodiac coins, struck under Antoninus Pius, are exceedingly rare and highly desirable. The coins being offered here were formerly owned by the Alexandrian scholar and collector Giovanni Dattari. I fully expect these items to bring strong hammers due to their rarity. Aside from the Zodiac coins, the other pieces in this collection boast some very nice pedigrees.

The other notable collections in this catalog are the Walter Weise collection of Seleucid coinage and the Heinrich Rudolf Peter collection of Syracuse coinage. There is also another continuation of the Hanseatic Friend of Rome collection.

Normally I would attend the Künker Spring sale so I'm sorry I won't be there in person this year. Definitely next year though!!

Coin of the Week

CALABRIA. Tarentum. c. 315 BC
AR Didrachm, 7.87g (21mm, 9h). Young rider galloping wreathed horse, in field ΣΑ / dolphin rider with distaff and palm branch, in field ΣΥΜ and ΤΑΡΑΣ below. Helmet symbol in r. Field.

Pedigree: Ex LHS 95, 2005, lot 442

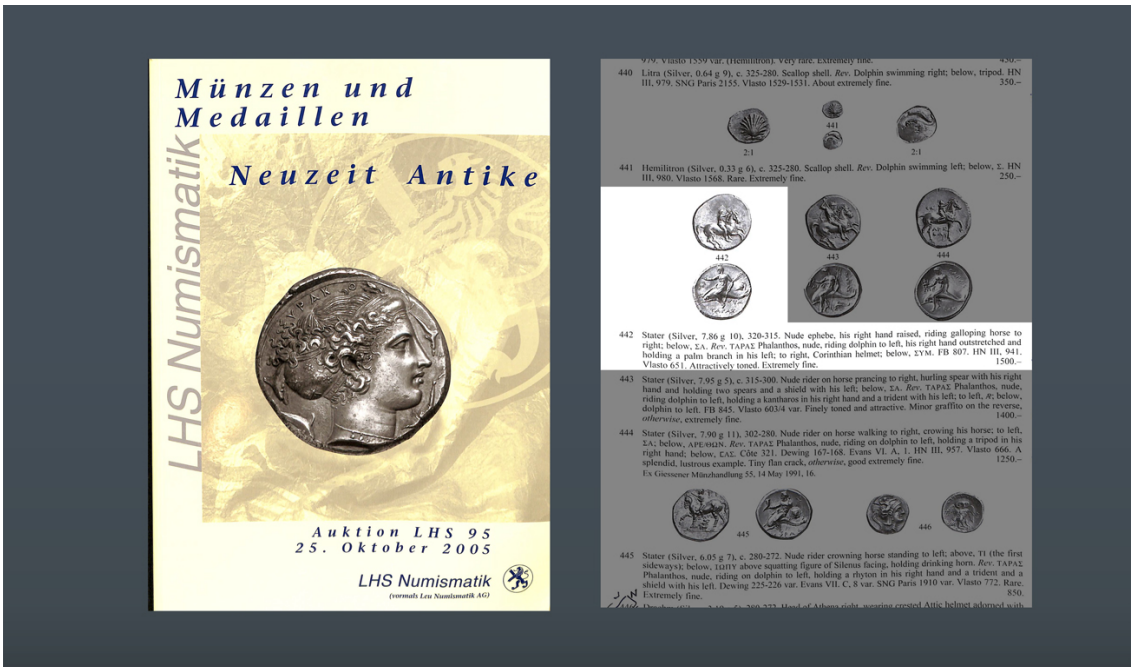
References: Fischer-Bossert 807 Rutter, HN 941 (dated 332/302 BC)

Grade: Pristine condition with beautiful iridescent toning. Sharly struck and mint state

Price: $5,500

gk1474

Watch video



Buy Coin

There are various theories on who founded Tarentum. One suggestion is around 708 BC, that it was founded by a rather radical group of people, specifically, Spartan women and free men that were not of Spartan citizenship. The men and women were partnered by the Spartans themselves in order to get soldiers to aid in fighting the Messenian War (A war fought between Sparta and Messenians). Apparently Sparta accepted these unions of Spartan women with non-Spartan men in order to boost its military power. Whatever the actual history is will never be known but the coinage was nonetheless heavily influenced by mythology.

The first coins from Tarentum were thin disk-like coins that showed Taras riding a leaping dolphin on the obverse and incuse reverse. This coin was struck some 400 years later and the coinage had transformed into two-sided imagery while maintaining the dolphin rider, only now on the reverse. The obverse on this particular coin features a youth on horseback. The issues from this period are varied with a plethora of different styles. Collecting each style would be a long arduous task!

https://www.shannaschmidt.com/greek-coins/calabria-tarentum-c-315-bc?rq=gk1474

If you are interested in this coin please click the link above or email me at shanna@shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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